

Citizens Advisory Committee for Marietta Parks (CACMP)  
Minutes of the Meeting on January 21, 2010  
Fire Station #1, Training Room

A public meeting of CACMP was called to order promptly at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Jim King. All members were present except Randy Weiner who had an excused absence because his attendance was required at a School Board meeting.

The proposed minutes of the December 17, 2009, CACMP meeting were adopted unanimously after a motion by Ford Bohannon and a second by Kim Gresh.

The proposed minutes of the January 7, 2010, CACMP Executive Committee meeting were adopted unanimously after a motion by Ford Bohannon and a second by Jim Morris.

A presentation by the Marietta Police Department was given by Sergeant Goins who was assisted by Commander Messimer. His message is that the parks are generally safe and that there is little illegal activity in them. To keep them that way requires a critical mass of law abiding citizens using the park, and park design and maintenance that facilitates "natural surveillance." The Police Department currently has two officers in training to be certified as experts in park policing issues. The Police Department is willing to assess public safety issues in any park or recreation facility at our request.

A presentation by Marietta Housing Authority was given by Pete Waldrep. He spoke of the changing population being served by MHA. As centralized public housing is being demolished, those families are being served by voucher-paid housing and most of the residents have been re-located to Cobb County. The closure of Boston Homes is being managed in a way that 78% of the residents being displaced from the project are being settled within the city limits of Marietta. MHA is now serving a more elderly population within the city limits. MHA provides some recreation resources for residents of their facilities and has paid considerable attention to those details in newer construction. They include extensive exercise opportunities in the newly built Dorsey Manor expansion and gardening opportunities as a part of senior housing in Branson Homes. He sees value in cooperating with Parks and Recreation on development of recreation resources near MHA sites, particularly the pocket parks near Dorsey Manor and Victory Park near Branson Homes.

Greg Litchfield explained the City Attorney's opinion about the Council's obligation to expend moneys on specific parks and recreation facilities as it stated it would do during the publication of the bond issue. If it is not currently feasible to do one or more of those projects, that money may be allocated to another facility or project in the same category. Committee members had questions about that requirement and the City Attorney will provide a more detailed opinion focused on the requirements of a bond issue rather than a SPLOST issue.

Ford Bohannon led a discussion of the Executive Committee's recommendation of sub-committee creation to facilitate accomplishment of our broad task. There were seven

recommended sub-committees and each member was asked to submit a piece of paper on which the member had prioritized three choices and included the member's name. Assignments will be determined and reported to the members.

There was a brief discussion of the Parks Tour that each of the members attended over the past two weekends. Rich Buss and his crew were commended for conducting such a comprehensive and educational tour.

There was discussion about Real Estate acquisition and Rich Buss and Larry Cemensky explained how Cobb County conducted its recent land acquisition process. It was agreed that properties available in the city are likely to be smaller than those in Cobb and that our criteria may be weighted differently than the county's was, but there was considerable admiration for the public process they used and for the structure of their search. The sub-committee will organize a process once it is established.

There was discussion about how to involve the public in our process and general agreement that the public needs to have ready access to our process and we need to afford the public easy opportunities to let us know what they want included in their parks and recreation options. The website is just now starting to gather opinions. The North Marietta Neighborhood Association is having a meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup> to advise its members of the process to impact the planning process. We need to find a way to get our message out that does not involve Rich Buss having to speak individually to each community group.

After CACMP toured all the Parks and Recreation facilities it was obvious that immediate attention is required at some parks and that it would be advisable for the City Council to consider planning and bidding these projects immediately. Rich Buss presented a list of projects his staff felt were in that category and CACMP unanimously agreed to recommend some of those projects to the City Council for funding from the bond money. The specific projects recommended are:

Brown Park: The perimeter should be fenced for esthetic and security reasons. An irrigation system should be installed.

Glover Park: The safety surface on the playground needs to be rehabilitated. The train needs to be painted. An architecturally appropriate structure needs to be built to shade the playground.

Grambling Park: Add playground equipment.

Hill Park: Add chess tables and seating to accommodate visiting senior citizens and others.

Lake Park: Install benches.

Laurel Park: Install trail lighting. Begin the process to plan and bid pond rehabilitation so that it can be accomplished as soon as the weather is appropriate.

West Dixie Park: Add playground equipment in a subdued color.

Whitaker Park: Add shade structure over playground area.

Woods Park: Landscaping.

A number of other immediate projects were recommended but CACMP requested additional information on these:

Birney Park: Cost estimates for playground equipment, roof for pavilion, bridge, access.

Laurel Park: Cost estimates for new tennis court lighting and construction of tennis court viewing area.

Lewis Park: Drawing of proposed shade construction and watering area.

Merritt Park: Cost estimates for extending walking area and construction of bridge.

Cost data will be sent to CACMP members.

It would be helpful to the Secretary if a written copy of staff recommendations would be available instead of having to rely on recall of a Power Point presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

The next meeting of CACMP will be at 7:00 pm., February 4, 2010, at the same location.

Respectfully submitted, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2010

---

Jim Morris, Secretary